The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

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NO "SHORT-CUT" ROAD TO INDUSTRIAL PEACE

Atlantic City, N. J., June 7.—There is no "easy" way to solve industrial and social problems, declared President Gompers, replying to a Washington (D. C.) newspaper which has revived the plan to hold a national conference to meet in that city and discuss these questions.

The newspaper asked President Gompers' views on the proposal, and the trade unionist replied:

"A conference of the character indicated may be helpful in bringing men to a better realization of each other's point of view and the claims which the workers make upon society as a more adequate reward for service performed.

"If, however, there is in the project the thought that a 'set of basic principles for guidance in solution of labor problems and assurance of industrial peace' can be adopted, it will utterly fail. There is no royal road to a final solution of the 'labor promlem,' nor can 'industrial peace' be secured by a set of resolutions.

"I have endeavored to do my share to help solve the problems of the day and of the time, and to bring about as nearly an approach to industrial peace as perhaps any other man in our country, but to entertain the idea that the 'labor problem' can be solved or permanent 'industrial peace' attained is following a will-o'-the-wisp.

"An intelligent, rational discontent for a better time and better conditions of life and work is the harbinger of progress and a better day. It is the ignorant, irrational unrest which must be understood and educated and brought within the common activities of all our people in order to open the path to our greater progress and our higher civilization."

MACHINISTS ON STRIKE.

Detroit, Mich., June 7.—Nearly 2,000 machinists employed by the Studebaker corporation are on strike. Continuous discrimination against union men forced the issue. The men are demanding a 44-hour week, with Saturday half holiday, wage increases of 15 cents an hour, time and a half for overtime and double time for late night work and holidays, and reinstatement of discharged unionists. An equal number of men are still on strike at the Timkin plant. Both companies refused to meet union representatives.

Jamestown, N. Y., June 7.—Machinists are on strike in several large metal works. Notice was served that increased wages would be demanded and reduction of hours to 48 per week, with half holiday Saturdays, to become effective June 1. Efforts were made to secure conferences. These being refused when solicited through the Manufacturers' association, Chamber of Commerce and the mayor, the men determined to force a decision. The cessation of work involves about 800 men, and unless an adjustment is reached the number will be largely augmented.

$25,000 DAMAGES AWARDED.

Madison, Wis., June 7.—Joseph A. Bell, while riding on a car of the Milwaukee Electric Railway company, in Milwaukee, was blinded by a live wire coming in contact with the car, causing an explosion. The case was tried in a Milwaukee court and the jury awarded Bell $25,000. The company appealed to the state supreme court, and in sustaining the lower court Justice Vinje said:

"It may be true that the present value of an annuity for the plaintiff based upon an earning power of $780 a year is only $11,927.76; but that measures only a portion of his damages—the destruction of his earning power, assumed to be stationary. It takes no account of his medical expenses, pain and suffering and his diminished capacity for enjoying life, as well as the added care and attention that must be given him by members of his family or others. The amount assessed for the injuries sustained cannot be held excessive."

UNIONISTS LOCKED OUT.

Charlotte, N. C., June 7.—All members of the United Textile Workers employed in the mills of the Chadwick-Hoskins Manufacturing company have been locked out. Every person who has been known to express sympathy with the union is included in this Prussian order. A strike is also on against the Highland Park Manufacturing company. Gun men are paid $6 a day to terrorize workers whose only offense is that they joined a labor union. The unionists charge that the local press will not publish the facts of these cases.

WOMEN DO 22 PER CENT WORK

Washington, June 7.—Eight million, or 22 per cent, of all persons engaged in gainful occupations in the United States are women, according to the women's division of the federal employment service.

Of this 8,000,000 more than 1,000,000 were women and girls employed for non-monetary returns on home farms. Roughly calculated, 19 per cent of all paid employes in 1910 were women and girls who need employment information at some period in their lives.

TO HAVE CO-OP. STORE.

Beaverton, Ore., June 7.—Beaverton is to be the home of the Oregon Rural Letter Carriers association's co-operative mail order store. It will have a capital of $2,500, divided into 100 shares of a par value of $25 each. The stock will be sold to rural carriers and postal employes only and will be non-assessable.

COAL HANDLERS GET RAISE.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 7.—The recently organized coal handlers have increased wages 10 cents an hour, from 50 to 60 cents. From 6 to 10 p. m. the rate is 70 cents, with time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays.

RESULTED FAVORABLY.

Phoenix, Ariz., June 7.—Bakers' and Confectionery Workers' union has secured an agreement which covers all the bakery firms in this district. The union has been in existence only a few months.

PAINTERS WIN STRIKE.

Allentown, Pa., June 7.—After a four-weeks' strike Painters and Decorators' union No 122 has secured an agreement which raises wages from 50 to 60 cents an hour.

CLOAK MAKERS WIN RAISE AND 44 HOURS

New York, June 7.—The 45,000 striking members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union won a 44-hour week and increases in wages. President Schlesinger and the conference committee continued in conference with representatives of the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' association almost continuously during the two weeks of the strike. Almost all demands were secured. There were 13 points involved. Briefly summarized, they are as follows:

Week work system, abolishing piece work entirely. Reduction of hours from 49 per week to 44 hours. Complete unionizing of shops. Not more than eight hours a week overtime for more than eight months a year; no overtime Saturdays or Sundays. Equal distribution of work during the slack season. In case of shortage of labor, union and association will work out a system for newcomers that will prevent wage reductions. Manufacturers must register sub-contractors to insure union conditions by latter. Minimum of 14 machines in manufacturers' shops, and 10 machines in sub-contractors' shops. No work can be turned out for shops where strike exists. Union officials permitted to investigate in the shop the cause for discharge of union employes, the burden of proof to rest on the manufacturer. Double time for overtime for those who have worked by the week previously; time and a half for former piece workers.

The new wage scale varies from $15 for finishers to $44 for operators. Independent contractors have signed the agreement as outlined above.

Increase in wages varies from $4 to $8 per week.

Six and a half holidays a year shall constitue the number of days off with full pay. Efforts will be made during the dull season to have cloak makers work in shifts so as to equalize the work. There are 250 large manufacturers represented in the manufacturers' association, and 1,500 independent manufacturers represented in the settlement. The trade does not average more than eight months' work in a year.

LESS THAN LIVING WAGE.

New Orleans, June 7.—A survey by the Louisiana state council of national defense shows that 12 per cent of the women in the state are not paid sufficient for existence. Wages, hours, living conditions, fatigue and accidents are estimated. Wages are the substance of the situation. The figures obtained on working women of New Orleans cover 11,383. The factory inspector estimates 13,536 are employed in industry. During the past five years wage increases have reached 60 per cent, not sufficient to cover the living expenses by nearly 20 per cent. Budgets of individuals, government statistics and two big charitable organizations make it clear that 12 per cent of the working women are earning less than the minimum existence, $6 a week. Forty per cent receive under $9, which is considered the minimum comfort wage.

Accidents among women are startlingly on the increase, with three times the number of accidents as five years ago, with only 66 per cent increase in the number of workers. The workers receiving the lowest wages are more than twice as liable to accidents and injury as any other.

INCREASE AWARDED.

Montreal, Canada, June 7.—The board of arbitration in the case of the Montreal Tramway company and its employes rendered its finding and it was accepted. The wage advance of motormen and conductors ranges from 37 to 44 cents an hour; an increase over the old scale, which was from 31 to 37 cents per hour. Shop workers are awarded a 12 cent raise. Other men employed by the hour get a 7-cent advance. Clerks and inspectors receiving less than $100 per month were increased 25 per cent, and those paid over $100 were given 20 per cent more.

Fort Smith, Ark., June 7.—A strike was averted when the Fort Smith Light and Traction company agreed to advance the wages of its motormen and conductors eight cents an hour, being a 32 per cent advance, with a 33-cent manimum and a 39-cent maximum per hour.

HIGH PROFITS BLAMED.

Washington, June 7.—Charges that railroad bondholders are being paid as high as 40 per cent on their investment and that this is responsible for present deficits under government operation has been made by the farmers' national committee on transportation. The claim is made that on $7,000,000,000 of securities the railroads are not entitled to any dividends. Government ownership, with a maximum purchase price of $12,000,000,000, is favored as a remedy for present conditions.

RESULT OF UNITY.

New Brunswick, N. J., June 7.—Unity of action by Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers union No. 842 resulted in securing the signatures of all the employing painters in this district to a new scale which calls for $6 a day and eight hours, every painter in the district being a member of the union.

Austin, Texas, June 7.—The painters are all working under the new scale which calls for $6.40 a day and a 44-hour week.

TO JOIN A. F. OF L.

St. Louis, Mo., June 7.—The Order of Railroad Conductors, which has just completed its convention here, voted to make application for admission into the American Federation of Labor. Such a step had been under advisement for some time past, but had been deferred until the present convention. A. B. Garretson, chief executive of the conductors since 1906, has retired from that position.

$1 A DAY FOR BRICKLAYERS

Erie, Pa., June 7.—Building contractors have granted the demands of the bricklayers for $1 a day increase. Accompanying the increase is a proviso that $1.25 will be paid to protect the sub-contractors, made necessary because many foreigners are taking day work jobs.

$5 A DAY FAVORED.

Washington, June 7.—A $5-a-day minimum for customs inspectors is favored by Secretary of the Treasury Glass, who has submitted an estimate to congress of $11,325,000 for wage increases in the customs service.

JUSTICE-EDUCATION IS BEST BOMB REMEDY

Washington, June 7.—Justice and education is the best bomb remedy, summarizes A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison's comment on the attempt of a bomb thrower who was killed in an attempt to destroy the life and wreck the home of United States Attorney General Palmer, in this city.

In reply to a local newspaper's request for a comment on this outrage Secretary Morrison said:

"This attempted destruction of life and property should cause calm reflection, rather than hysteria, on the part of every American.

"I can understand why the nihilist of Russia used bombs, but this method can have no place in American institutions. And when it is used it is our patriotic duty to inquire why.

"For years the trade union movement has urged the restriction of immigration, but the workers were opposed by steamship companies, the steel trust and other employers of labor who stimulated immigration at the rate of 1,000,000 persons a year.

"Many of these immigrants were herded in large cities or other industrial centers. They were encouraged to use their own language and to perpetuate traditions of their mother country. At election time, in innumerable instances, they were voted en bloc, and if they would organize a trade union, or suspend work to stop exploitation, they were enjoined, clubbed and jailed. This is an old story in West Virginia, Colorado, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

"What can Americanism mean to those people? They do not even understand our language. To them Americanism means a petty boss and low wages. They know nothing of our theory of government.

"This country is now reaping the result of its immigration policy—or lack of policy—during all these years.

"Bomb throwing is always a challenge to organized society, and should be met in that spirit. But the question must be traced back to its root and treated accordingly. Americanism must be more than a shibboleth. It must mean education, opportunity and social justice for all. We must vitalize our declarations and our beliefs that injustice has no place on American soil.

"In this soil, bomb throwing will wither and die."

ECONOMIC POWER WON.

New York, June 7.—The Textile Workers says: "The 48-hour work week in the textile industry is now an accomplished fact, with the exception of a few spots here and there, particularly in the southern states where they have come down half way from 60 hours per week to 54 and 55 hours per week; and it is only a question of a short time when, through the economic power of the United Textile Workers of America, backed up by public opinion, the 48-hour work week for textile workers will be universal all over the country."

Immediately on having determined the fact that the shorter hour workday had been secured, a demand for an increase of 15 per cent in wages was issued by the United Textile Workers, and notices sent to all manufacturers in the New England states. Realizing that a determined fight would probably follow a refusal to grant the demand, the manufacturers posted notices, which were widely circulated by the daily press, that they had voluntarily granted an increase equalling that asked by the United Textile Workers.

PEOPLE NOT EATING MEAT.

Chicago, June 7.—It has been found that American families have reduced their meat eating because of high prices and now the American Meat Packers' association predicts a reduction in prices. "It is thought that the consumption of beef may be greatly increased," the statement says.

A few weeks ago the packers' association announced that the depletion of Europe's herds would necessitate continued high prices in this country, but the packers find that people in their own country can not afford meat, so we are told that "cheaper, grass-fed cattle" are coming into the market and that this will make lower prices possible—when the retailer lowers his present stock

It must not be understood, however, that prices will take a very pronounced drop, as it stated that present conditions will "hold meat prices above normal."

ST. PAUL STRIKE ENDED.

St. Paul, Minn., June 7.—The strike of the building trades has been settled independent of the builders' exchange, which is composed largely of material men. Building contractors made the settlement and the industry is expected to resume its activity. The cause of the trouble was a demand for increased wages by the building laborers from 40 to 50 cents an hour. By the settlement they are awarded 45 cents until July 31, and after that date they will be increased to 47½ cents and a continuance of the nine-hour day. The strike involved nearly 3,500 men.

TO FORCE WAGE REDUCTION.

Mount Hope, N. J., June 7.—Because 400 employes refused to accept a wage reduction of $1.50 a day the Empire Steel and Iron company has closed the plant. This is the second mine in this vicinity to close recently, the other being the Wharton Steel works, which employed 600 men.

DEMAND MORE PAY.

Muskogee, Okla., June 7.—All the conductors and motormen left their cars when the manager of the Muskogee Electric Traction company refused to pay the increase demanded The men requested 44 to 50 cents an hour. The company offered 31 to 41 cents.

CLOSE STORES AT 6 P. M.

Edmonton, Canada, June 7.—All stores, shops and places doing a commercial business, under the provisions of an enactment of the provincial legislature, must close at 6 p. m. Exemptions are allowed under a municipal by-law.

NEW SCALE $7 PER DAY.

San Antonio, Texas, June 7.—Electrical Workers' union No. 60 negotiated a new scale of $7 a day and a 44-hour week with double time for overtime. The old rate was $6.

PICKETS ARE TAXED.

Cincinnati, June 7.—A city ordinance provides that unions must pay an "occupational tax" for those of its members doing picket duty who carry banners.

FAVOR RE-EDUCATION FOR INJURED WORKERS

San Francisco, June 7.—After a four-years' investigation of serious permanent injuries to 700 workers, the state industrial accident commission has issued a report showing the necessity for the re-education of workers who suffer these injuries

The report says the typical "general average" of these workers is 37.8 years of age. He has had the equivalent of four and one-half years of common school education. He is intelligent, ambitious and capable of learning. He has two dependents, besides himself, who look to him for support. He has a permanent disability rating of 34¾ per cent, or 139 compensation weeks, during which he draws a compensation of $22.55 a week under the state compensation laws. He has lost one year from employment. His present wage is $16.60 a week, against $22, previous to his injury. He feels that his position is uncertain and that the hazard of employment for him increases daily. He owns an equity of $184 in a house. The period of his compensation will soon expire. He will then be dependent for support upon a wage of about 65 per cent of that enjoyed by his fellow workers who have no injuries, and he will be burdened with increasing hazard of employment as the years go by.

"The mills of our industries," continues the report, "have ground off his arms, or hands, or legs, or feet, or put out his eyes. The solution is not a pension. He does not ask that. The offer of a pension would be a moral crime. He asks simply a new industrial chance through industrial re-education. To this he is entitled by his industrial necessity. To this he is entitled by our industrial prosperity, achieved, in part, at his expense. To this he is entitled by the very humanity of the age."

EMPLOYMENT BOARD URGED.

Washington, June 7.—Secretary of Labor Wilson has appealed to congress to create a permanent public employment service.

There was an appropriation of $272,000 in the deficiency bill to continue the United States employment service, but this was stricken out by a parliamentary move by Congressman Blanton of Texas and now the service must curtail its activities and possibly be forced to disband temporarily.

In his letter Secretary Wilson says that the placing of workers should not be left solely to private fee-charging agencies.

"Inasmuch as the interests of the private fee-charging agencies are fostered by constant shifting of workers from one employment to another," he says, "they are under constant temptation to which, unfortunately, they sometime yield, to encourage restlessness among laborers and thus to increase the evils and economic loss which inhere in a large labor turnover."

EXPRESS CO. YIELDS.

Detroit, Mich., June 7.—Expressmen's division of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks tied up the express business of the city for three days to secure union recognition, a 44-hour week, wage increase and other improvements. The company failed to promote the formation of a dual organization for the purpose of defeating the Expressmen's division. Before the strike ended the union's membership increased from 175 to 1,000. Adjustment was reached when the company consented to have the new scale be retroactive as of January 1 and conform to supplement 19, general order of the railroad administration. Additional demands are: Time and a half for overtime, double time for Sunday work, free transportation in case of sickness and 15 days' vacation on full pay. The matter to be disposed of in 30 days by the board of adjustment in Washington.

SAYS BURLESON IS BLIND.

Washington, June 7.—Postmaster General Burleson has held his opposition to organized labor blindly, says the Herald of this city, which declares that the most reactionary employer who would die rather than yield an inch to labor could not have been more of a bourbon than the postal chief has proved to be.

"Mr. Burleson, unlike most men in public life," continues the Herald, "refuses to learn; he is adamant and immovable; and in the absolute conviction that he alone can be right on any given issue; he has been arbitrary and junkerish in office. But, happily, the end is in sight. It is inconceivable that Burleson can go on much longer."

WAR BOARD AWARDS.

Washington, June 7.—Awards were made by the national war labor board in the case of four unions in the New England fisheries dispute. The wages were fixed as follows: Captains of beam trawlers, $125 monthly and 3 per cent commission on gross stock of vessels; mates, $110 monthly and 2 per cent commission. Members of the Fish Handlers' union receiving less than $25 weekly, a 15 per cent increase; those receiving $25 or more weekly, 10 per cent increase. Overtime to be paid for at the rate of 75 cents per hour.

WON THEIR DEMANDS.

Newark, Ohio, June 7.—After negotiating with officials of the Simpson foundry for two weeks without results, Molders' union No. 205 called a strike. The dispute terminated by the strikers winning all points for which they contended. Wages hereafter will be $6 a day with back pay from October 1, at which time the old scale expired.

MR. BURLESON, TAKE NOTICE

Windsor, Canada, June 7.—Double pay for work on holidays and a working week of 44 hours has been granted Windsor mail carriers by the postoffice department. The men will be given a half day off each week. The new order becomes effective immediately.

ST. PAUL CO-OP. STORE.

St. Paul, Minn., June 7.—The St. Paul Co-operative store, with a charter and capitalization of $50,000, has been formed and is doing an active business. Ninety per cent of the membership of the company are trade unionists.

DEMAND MORE PAY.

Des Moines, Iowa, June 7.—Organized boiler makers struck for increased wages. The old rate was 68 cents per hour. They are demanding 80 cents and a Saturday half holiday.

A. F. OF L. YEAR BOOK TELLS LABOR'S STORY

Washington, June 7.—The A. F. of L. Year Book, authorized by the Baltimore and Buffalo conventions has been placed on the market. It is over 500 pages and is a history of the American trade union movement and is also an encyclopedia and record, in condensed form, of every important action considered in the 38 conventions held since the organization of the A. F. of L. in 1881.

The work was compiled by William C. Roberts, writer on economic questions, and member of the Chicago Typographical union. In his foreword Mr. Roberts says:

"While each subject is briefly treated, the intention has been not to omit anything that would prevent a thorough understanding of every principle. When it is known that there are 8,000,000 words in the 38 proceedings that had to be reduced to about 400,000 it will be seen that the work has been difficult. The rule followed was to use the official language of the conventions. The belief was that it should be an A. F. of L. book, not the work of any individual or group of individuals. The real authors are the delegates to conventions, extracts from whose resolutions and speeches are printed literally, but in condensed form."

Other features of the book include the reconstruction program of the A. F. of L., complete list of A. F. of L. officers and convention cities, history of A. F. and L. departments, list of affiliated national and international unions and railroad brotherhoods and present and first officials, history of Pan-American Federation of Labor, model constitution for a co-operative movement, with suggestions on how a co-operative company should operate, recommendations of inter-allied labor conference, list of remedial legislation in the various states, federal court decisions on labor cases, list of war boards and commissions, labor missions to and from Europe, a set of model apprentice rules, short record of financial transactions with per capita taxes and assessments by A. F. of L., voting strength of delegates to A. F. of L., and a number of statistical tables.

The price of the book is $2.

MOLDERS WIN 8-HOUR FIGHT.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 7.—An agreement has been signed between the Molders' union and the Cedar Rapids Foundry and Machine company and the Radiator company which terminates a bitterly contested struggle that has been on for several weeks. The other large firm made peace with the union following presentation of the demands. Under the provisions of the settlement the eight-hour day is conceded and a wage scale of $5.75 granted.

Syracuse, N. Y., June 7.—The Globe Malleable Iron and Steel company has secured an injunction against Iron Molders' union No. 80, and "all others, friends or associates," preventing them from picketing or patrolling either the premises or "public streets in the vicinity" of the works, and the use of language tending to intimidate, "or create a feeling of uncertainty." The company charges that the strikers are trying to break "the morale of the workers" in its employ.

Derby, Conn., June 7.—The Connecticut valley conference board of the International Molders' union decided on an eight-hour day, with no overtime unless under emergencies and a minimum wage scale of $5.50 a day.

TAILORING TRADE WAGES.

London, England, June 7.—A new wages award has been made for workers in the tailoring trade, including journeymen tailors and those employed by sub-contractors to the merchant tailors. Advances are to be given to various classes and ages of workers varying from ¾d. to ¼d. an hour. Others are to receive advances ranging from 18s. 9d. per week, for men aged 22 and over, to 7s. per week for youths and girls under 18. The advances are to be paid over and above the basis rates and war advances now obtaining. Extra payment is allowed for work on Sundays and holidays. Similar awards have been made for workers in the clothing trade in the area of the Northern Clothing Manufacturers' association.

STRIKERS CONTRACTING.

Richmond, Va., June 7.—Following the failure of Electrical Workers' union No. 666 to reach an agreement with the Electrical Contractors' association a strike resulted. The strikers immediately organized the Union Electric company, and incorporated it under the laws of the state of Virginia. Instead of paying strike benefits, the union decided that it would form this company and furnish work to the members. At the last meeting of the stockholders the company showed a large profit instead of a deficit. The electrical workers believe they have found a good way of defeating the contractors.

DISCHARGED UNION MEN.

Maryville, Tenn., June 7.—One hundred members of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' union were discharged because of activity in forming the union. A strike resulted. Their places are being filled by Mexicans, who have been brought in by the Aluminum Company of America. Each employe is compelled to sign an agreement that he will not join a union.

UNIONS TO FEDERATE.

San Francisco, June 7.—The labor unions in the maritime industry on the Pacific coast are being formed into a federation. The new organization will include the sailors, masters mates and pilots, marine engineers, marine firemen, oilers and water tenders, and the marine cooks and stewards, approximating 70,000 members.

TEAMSTERS BREAK RECORD.

Indianapolis, June 7.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters report that during April per capita tax was received on 89,712 members, and that "this is the topnotch point in the history of our international union."

FORMED UNION; LOCKED OUT.

Amite, La., June 7.—About 300 white and colored employes of the Gullett Gin company formed a union. For that unpardonable offense they were locked out.

RECORD A. F. OF L. MEET.

Washington, June 7.—There will be approximately 550 delegates in attendance at the thirty-ninth annual convention of the A. F. of L. to be held at Atlantic City, starting next Monday. This is a record number. For the first time the British Trades Union Congress will be represented by a woman—Miss M. Bonfield. Her colleague fraternal delegate is S. Finney. The fraternal delegate from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is J. M. Walsh.

EIGHT HOURS IN FRANCE.

Paris, France, June 7.—Organized employers have notified their striking garment workers that the eight-hour day and the 44-hour week will be established and the union recognized. The employers first refused to grant any demand or to recognize the union, but the workers' solidarity gradually forced them to a complete surrender.

The 25,000 striking bank and bourse employes won a 11-days' strike against the kings of finance when Minister of Labor Colliard, acting as arbitrator, ordered a 30 per cent wage increase for several large institutions. Other establishments in this city and the provinces will pay rates according to circumstances. The strikers' demands for holidays and improved working conditions will be worked out through a committee. The bankers refused to recognize the bank clerks' union despite the fact that the French law guarantees workers the right to organize and legalizes collective bargaining. The minister of labor was accepted as sole arbitrator when he threatened to requisition the banks and conduct them as state institutions.

The Boot and Shoe Workers' union has compelled employers to sign an eight-hour agreement that will run for three years. The eight-hour law enacted by parliament last April provides that its details shall be left to agreements between employers and employed in each industry.

MURDEROUS GUN MEN.

Columbus, Ga., June 7.—Gun men fired into an open air meeting of striking textile workers and killed one person and seriously injured six others. Prior to the assault the speakers were subjected to insult and a din was maintained by rattling tin pans in an effort to silence the speakers. Trade unionists are protesting vigorously against the outrage and are demanding the prompt punishment of the gun men. The Carpenters' union has voted $4,000 for this purpose.

Washington, June 7.—On being notified of the assault on Columbus, Ga., striking textile workers by gun men, President Gompers forwarded this telegram to Governor Dorsey of that state:

"On behalf of the American Federation of Labor I urge that you take immediate steps to have a thorough investigation made of the shooting of the members of the United Textile Workers of America at Columbus, Ga., and that those who are responsible be brought before the bar of justice."

BUILDINGS INCREASING.

Washington, June 7.—The United States labor department reports that for the week ended May 16 there had been a decided improvement in the building industry, especially in the eastern section of the country.

Contracts totalling $59,748,953 were let for last week in six principal cities east of the Missouri river and north of the Ohio.

The building total for May will exceed that for the same month of any other year in the nation's history, it is predicted in the report.

The greatest part of the boom is in construction of private homes, of which 3,048 were contracted for at a cost of more than $19,00,000 in one week of May.

By principal cities, construction undertaken during the week ended May 16 was: New York, $10,173,211; Chicago, $27,440,000; Minneapolis, $3,141,000; Boston, $5,636,000; Philadelphia, $7,7907,286, and Pittsburg, $2,561,000.

AWARDED 30 CENTS.

Denver, June 7.—After three months' negotiations Typographical union No. 49 has been awarded a wage increase of 30 cents a day for its newspaper members by Dean Hellems of the University of Colorado, who served as the fifth arbitrator. The printers cannot "see" this paltry advance in these days of soaring prices and will appeal to the national arbitration board, as provided by agreement between the International Typographical union and the Publishers' association.

TO AID PEACE CRIPPLES.

Washington, June 7.—The senate committee on labor and education has favored a bill which will extend vocational training to persons injured in industry. In supporting the bill Dr. C. A. Prosser stated that there were 20,000 amputations a year in this country because of industrial accidents and that 1,000,000 are disabled by injury and disease.

SAVINGS BANK GROWS.

Seattle, Wash., June 7.—The Trades Union Savings and Loan association is meeting with favor among local trade unionists. Deposits have passed the $80,000 mark. The association's assets are about $20,000 in real estate, $15,000 in short-time loans secured by liberty bonds; about $37,000 invested in liberty and $10,000 in cash.

STRIKE, WAGE INCREASE.

Kingston, Jamaica, June 7.—A 10-days' strike of dock laborers forced the Atlantic Fruit company and the United Fruit company to raise wages 33 1-3 per cent and fix the working hours from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m., with double pay for night work.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY FOR CLERKS

Kingston, Canada, June 7.—A shorter work day has been established that will give the clerks in the various stores eight hours five days in the week, with nine hours for Saturdays. Saturday night work will be eliminated.

TWO NEW UNIONS.

Spokane, Wash., June 7.—Unions of upholsterers and roofers have been organized here and applications for charters forwarded.

BRITISH COAL LAND OWNERS FAIL TO PRODUCE TITLE DEEDS

London, England, June 7.—The remarketable spectacle of titled aristocracy being subjected to a rigid cross-examination on how they secured title to coal lands was witnessed at hearings by the Sankey coal commission, when Robert Smillie, president of the British Miners' Federation asked these lords, dukes and earls many embarrassing questions.

Vast acreages and princely incomes are involved and the trade unionist, with cold dignity, challenged the noblemen, again and again, to produce the authority on which they hold these lands

Vague assertions that "the land had been in the family since before the Roman conquest," or "if the land were not mine it would have been claimed by some one else," did not satisfy the miners' official. He wanted every statement of the lords backed by documentary evidence and in many cases the witnesses were unable to do this, and indicated no desire to show their title deeds

The Earl of Dunham was not clear as to why he claimed ownership of 12,411 acres of coal land, and which nets him a revenue of $200,000 a year. He said he never read the title deeds to these lands, and he could see no reason for the present inquiry.

"You have caused my agent," he said, "a great deal of inconvenience by saying you wanted the title deeds here."

The attorney of one duke, whose income on coal lands is represented at over a million a year, could see nothing unfair in the fact that the duke was getting a shilling a ton royalty on the coal, while the coal digger who risked his life was paid less than that sum a ton for mining it.

"What has this commission got to do with me?" angrily asked the Earl of Northumberland, who owns mining rights that cover 250,000 acres of land and has an annual income of over $300,000. The earl opposes the nationalization of mines. He said the miners "were trying to monopolize the mines for themselves."

The Marquis of Londonderry insisted that he had as much right to the 5,000 acres of coal land held by him, and the income of $45,000 a year, as he has to the coat on his back.

The Marquis of Bute who owns 126,582 acres of coal lands, and has an annual income of over $550,000, admitted that King Edward VI was a boy between 10 and 14 years of age 360 years ago when he signed documents conveying the lands which now form the Bute estates.

The marquis said he should be paid for these lands if they were nationalized, even if it were shown that the signature of the boy king on these documents was forged.

Lord Tredegar was impatient with the commission. This nobleman's annual income is $425,000. He said he was "somewhat rusty" about the title to these lands; that they were in his family from time immemorial and that if he didn't hold them "some one else would." One of the commissioners presented proof that large tracts in Lord Tredegar's holdings were never purchased. It was shown that "the witness has an income of $95,000 a year from a railroad one mile long which cost $200,000 to construct. Other coal operators are forced to use this line, which is called the "Golden Mile" railroad.

PRODUCING RESULTS.

Seattle, Wash., June 7.—The formation of teachers' unions and the general agitation that has followed is producing results, as is indicated by action of the board of education at a recent meeting. After 11 years' service high school teachers will receive $2,100 a year, beginning September next, according to the salary schedule approved by the board. For all grades an $1,800 maximum was named. The respective minimums are $1,500 and $1,200.

Ogden, Utah, June 7.—Two hundred teachers signed an application for a charter. They are being assisted by the unions to secure better conditions. School authorities have refused to re-employ teachers who signed the charter application. A fight will be made by the unions to force reinstatement of teachers without signing individual contracts.

San Francisco, June 7.—San Francisco Federation of Teachers No. 61 is a part of the San Francisco labor council, having been admitted into membership. Upon taking their seats the new delegates were given an ovation by their colleagues.

Jersey City, N. J., June 7.—Teachers of this city formed a union under the jurisdiction of the American Federation of Labor.

BURLESON'S "PATERNALISM."

Washington, June 7.—Refusal of Postmaster General Burleson to observe the postal eight-hour law is inflicting hardships upon postoffice clerks and depriving former soldiers and sailors of an opportunity to get employment. The statement was made by Gilbert E. Hyatt, president of the National Federation of Postal Employes in a speech in this city.

"In the city of Minneapolis," he said, "We have the spectacle of postoffice clerks being worked 10 and 11 hours a day while soldiers are begging quarters and dimes from passengers in front of the postoffice. Our appeals to Mr. Burleson to restore the eight-hour day in this and other offices, and thereby give the former military man a chance for a job, have been in vain."

FEDERAL HOME-LOAN BANKS.

Washington, June 7.—To obtain information regarding the present condition of building and loan associations in all parts of the country and to ascertain the sentiment in regard to the establishment of federal home loan banks, the United States department of labor recently sent out a questionnaire, the returns from which contain valuable information on the building situation.

According to the questionnaire returns, 62 per cent of the associations are now being offered more business than at this period of last year. Many of the reports show increases of from 10 to 1,500 per cent over 1918 in the volume of business.

"PROTEST" BAKERIES.

Yonkers, N. Y., June 7.—The announcement is made that several other baking companies are ready to supply the strikers' committee with all the bread, cakes and pasteries necessary to open opposition shops in the nearest store room available to any bakery unfair to the Bakers' union. In these "protest" bakeries union-made products will be sold until the unfair shops either change their attitude toward organized labor.

CARPENTERS WIN STRIKE

Erie, Pa., June 7.—The large contractors who precipitated the strike of the building trades have capitulated. Under the new agreement the carpenters gained all they were striking for, 80 cents per hour, 44-hour week and protection during lunch hour while eating their meals during winter season.

65 CENTS AND EIGHT HOURS.

Sydney, Nova Scotia, June 7.—After being on strike for 25 days, the journeyman plumbers have returned to work, agreeing to accept 65 cents an hour, and an eight-hour day. The old rate was 55 cents and nine hours.

NEW AGREEMENT SIGNED.

Portland, Ore., June 7.—A new agreement between the Bakers' association and the Confectionery Salesmen's union, provides for a minimum scale of $24 per week for salesmen whose business is less than $300.

BAKERS' UNION FORMED.

Hannibal, Mo., June 7.—A Bakers' union has been formed and an application for a charter has been forwarded to the International Union of Bakery and Confectionery Workers.

ADVERTISES LABOR LAW.

San Francisco, June 7.—The state industrial commission is issuing a series of printed arguments to California employers who are urged to invest in state compensation. The pamphlets are written in a "catchy" style. Appeal No. 1, signed "Silent Appeal," is as follows:

"Mr. Employer—Your compensation insurance with a corporate company has been costing you 50 per cent more than it should, and your business overhead has been unnecessarily loaded to that extent. Furthermore, your protection has not been as complete as it should have been.

"You are paying for 'salesmanship' of insurance agents and brokers which means nothing except wasted time and fallacious arguments against state insurance. Most of such arguments contain statements maliciously untrue. The insurance agent is everywhere and seldom are we given an opportunity to disprove his statements. I undertake to do it—absolutely.

"I am not a special agent with a good salary and a fat expense account. I am an economizer."

DEMAND 80 CENTS AN HOUR.

Chester, Pa., June 7.—A strike of carpenters was declared in this city and has spread all over Delaware county, where contractors refuse to grant the demands of the carpenters, who are asking for 80 cents an hour, an increase of 10 cents.

The local carpenters claim that they are asking 5 cents less than is paid in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. Some builders have granted the increase.

Chandler, Ariz., June 7.—A new Carpenters' union has been launched here and good results are anticipated with the establishment of a higher wage rate and shorter hours.

Worcester, Mass., June 7.—The Carpenters' District council has put into force a new wage schedule that calls for 75 cents per hour and covers the district surrounding this city.

Minneapolis, Minn., June 7.—The carpenters' strike terminated successfully and the wage will be 75 cents an hour, with no work Saturday afternoons.

GET 44-HOUR WEEK.

Niagara Falls, Canada, June 7.—Workers employed on the Hydro and Welland ship canals have secured an eight-hour day, a 44-hour week, and double time on Sundays and holidays. The men arranged for a strike that would involve a large number of cities if their demand for shorter hours was not granted. Every attempt was made to deny these employes a shorter work day, and the Hamilton Herald mournfully declared:

"What a clumsy and inefficient economic system we have under which it is possible for one class of workers to take all other classes of workers by the throat and compel them to 'cough up.' For that is practically what this threatened strike of the Hydro workers amounts to."

STATE INSURANCE PAYS.

Portland, Ore., June 7.—Since the state workmen's compensation law became effective in 1914, the industrial accident commission has received from all sources $6,007,081 which it has disbursed in the course of business at an administrative expense of only 6.17 per cent, the balance being available for the payments of claims of workmen injured in Oregon industry. During the year 1918 there were 26,238 workmen injured in industry in the state, 182 of the accidents being fatal.

CO-OP. UNION EXPANDS.

Tacoma, Wash., June 7.—The Sound Co-operative Produce union, composed of about 250 farmers from the Bay Island district, is incorporated with a capital stock of $26,000, and it plans to sell eggs, fruit and general produce through its co-operative wholesale house.

GET $60,000 BACK PAY.

Nashville, Tenn., June 7.—As a result of a decision of the railway adjustment board No. 2, the carmen of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railroad receive over $60,000 back pay. Each man gets from $100 to $250.

DEMAND UNIFORM RATES

Amherst, Canada, June 7.—Employers of the Canadian Car and Foundry company struck because they were refused the rates the company pays in Montreal. Over 2,000 men are affected by the strike.

LAUNDRY WORKERS UNITE.

Galesburg, Ill., June 7.—The laundry workers have completed a union and secured a charter.